



## 2010 Historical Merit Badge Program

Merit badges have been a fixture of the Boy Scouts of America since its inception in 1910. The requirements that generations of Scouts have completed have taught lifetime citizenship lessons, personal fitness habits, and life skills. They have been the beginnings of countless careers and lifetime hobbies. In the last 99 years, there have been many changes in the merit badge offerings. As society has changed, the Boy Scouts of America has adapted by revising the requirements, implementing name changes, adding new merit badges, and in some instances, eliminating some badges altogether.

For the 100th Anniversary Celebration, four vintage merit badges are being released for the centennial celebration year only, giving Boy Scouts the hands-on opportunity to experience the exciting past of Scouting while learning how our world has changed in that 100 years.

Here are the basics of the **2010 Historic Merit Badge** program.

- An overall goal of the program is for a majority of the BSA's registered Boy Scouts to earn one or more of the merit badges during the centennial year, 2010.
- The badges offered have a history that can be traced back to the origins of the BSA.
- The original requirements are being used, as well as supported by scanned pages of the early merit badge pamphlets so a Scout can view what a Scout 100 years ago used. Supporting the scanned pages of the original pamphlets are information guides for each merit badge that explain what a Scout of 1910 might have experienced, along with background information to assist a Scout in understanding what maybe unfamiliar terms.
- The contemporary merit badges closely resemble the original designs of their counterparts with the exception of the border, which is gold. The unique border will immediately identify it as a 2010 historic merit badge.
- The four historical merit badges may be used toward a Scout's rank advancement.
- The effective date for earning these new merit badges is April 1, 2010, and requirements must be completed no later than Dec. 31, 2010.
- The BSA will not reprint the pamphlets for these merit badges. Reprints of the original merit badge pamphlets are posted to [www.scouting.org/BoyScouts/AdvancementandAwards/MeritBadges.aspx](http://www.scouting.org/BoyScouts/AdvancementandAwards/MeritBadges.aspx).
- As with all merit badges, units, districts, and councils should recruit and register qualified counselors for these badges.
- Badges may be earned by individual Scouts. District and council advancement committees are encouraged to offer opportunities for Scouts to work on at least some of these merit badges at resident camp, at camporees, or during special anniversary celebrations. See the "how to" sections for additional support at [www.scouting.org/BoyScouts/AdvancementandAwards/MeritBadges.aspx](http://www.scouting.org/BoyScouts/AdvancementandAwards/MeritBadges.aspx).

## The 2010 Historic Merit Badges and Requirements

### Carpentry Merit Badge

Original



New



**Carpentry** was first offered in 1911 and was discontinued in 1952.

1. Demonstrate the use of the rule, square, level, plumb-line, mitre, chalk-line, and bevel.
2. Demonstrate the proper way to drive, set and clinch a nail, to draw a spike with a claw-hammer, and to join two pieces of wood with screws.
3. Show correct use of the cross-cut saw and of the rip-saw.
4. Show how to plane the edge, the end, and the broad surfaces of a board.
5. Demonstrate how to lay shingles.
6. Make a simple article of furniture for practical use in the home or on the home grounds, finished in a workman-like manner, all work to be done without assistance.

### Pathfinding Merit Badge

Original



New



**Pathfinding** was first offered in 1911 and was discontinued in 1952.

1. In the country, know every lane, bypath, and short cut for a distance of at least two miles in every direction around the local scout headquarters; or in a city, have a general knowledge of the district within a three-mile radius of the local scout headquarters, so as to be able to guide people at any time, by day or by night.
2. Know the population of the five principal neighboring towns, their general direction from his scout headquarters, and be able to give strangers correct directions how to reach them.
3. If in the country, know in a two-mile radius, the approximate number of horses, cattle, sheep, and pigs owned on the five neighboring farms; if in a town, know in a half-mile radius, the location of livery stables, garages, and blacksmith shops.
4. Know the location of the nearest meat markets, bakeries, groceries, and drug stores.
5. Know the location of the nearest police station, hospital, doctor, fire alarm, fire hydrant, telegraph and telephone offices, and railroad stations.

6. Know something of the history of his [community]; and know the location of its principal public buildings, such as the town or city hall, post office, schools and churches.
7. Submit a map not necessarily drawn by himself upon which he personally has indicated as much of the above information.

### Signaling Merit Badge

Original



New



**Signaling** was first offered in 1910 and was discontinued in 1992.

1. Make an electric buzzer outfit, wireless, blinker, or other signaling device.
2. Send and receive in the International Morse Code, by buzzer or other sound device, a complete message of not less than 35 words, at a rate of not less than 35 letters per minute.
3. Demonstrate an ability to send and receive a message in the International Morse Code by wigwag and by blinker or other light signaling device at a rate of not less than 20 letters per minute.
4. Send and receive by Semaphore Code at the rate of not less than 30 letters per minute.
5. Know the proper application of the International Morse and Semaphore Codes; when, where, and how they can be used to best advantage.
6. Discuss briefly various other codes and methods of signaling which are in common use.

### Tracking Merit Badge

Original



New



**Tracking** was first offered in 1911 as Stalking and was discontinued in 1952.

1. Demonstrate by means of a [tracking] game or otherwise, ability to track skillfully in shelter and wind, etc., showing how to proceed noiselessly and “freeze” when occasion demands.
2. Know and recognize the tracks of ten different kinds of animals or birds in his vicinity, three of which may be domestic.
3. Submit satisfactory evidence that he has trailed two different kinds of wild animals or birds on ordinary ground far enough to determine the direction in which they were going, and their gait or speed. Give the names of animals or birds trailed, their direction of travel, and describe gait or speed; or submit satisfactory evidence that he has trailed six different kinds

of wild animals or birds in the snow, sand, dust, or mud, far enough to determine the direction they were going and their gait or speed. Give names of animals or birds, their direction of travel, and describe gait or speed.

4. Submit satisfactory evidence that he has tracked a human being and deduced from the trail whether it was man or woman, young or old, the gait or speed, and also give any other information deduced.
5. Submit evidence that he has scored at least 30 points from the following groups: Group (f) and 4 of the 5 groups (a), (b), (c), (d), (e) must be represented in the score of 30 and at least 7 points must be scored from (a), (b), or (c)].

Make clear recognizable photographs of:

- (a) Live bird away from nest..... 4 points each
  - (b) Live woodchuck or smaller wild animal ..... 3 points each
  - (c) Live wild animal larger than woodchuck ..... 4 points each
  - (d) Live bird on nest ..... 3 points each
  - (e) Tracks of live wild animal or bird ..... 2 points each
- and
- (f) Make satisfactory plaster cast of wild animal  
or bird tracks with identification imprint on  
back of cast ..... 2 points each

### **For More Information**

To see reprints of the original merit badge pamphlets as well as an informative narration on how to apply the 1910–1911 requirements to today’s world, visit [www.scouting.org/BoyScouts/AdvancementandAwards/MeritBadges.aspx](http://www.scouting.org/BoyScouts/AdvancementandAwards/MeritBadges.aspx).

All historic merit badge patches are available now at Scout shops or may be ordered from Supply online ([www.scoutstuff.org](http://www.scoutstuff.org)), or by calling toll-free 800-323-0736. What a way to join our anniversary celebration!

Internet advancement and the BSA’s Internet software, PAS, is ready to input and record historic merit badges from Apr. 1, 2010, until Dec. 31, 2010.